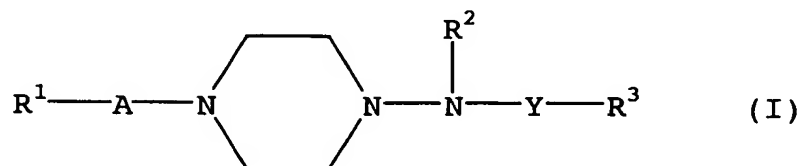


ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides a method of specifically potentiating an N-type Ca^{2+} channel activity, which includes administering, to a subject, a compound of the following

5 formula (I):



wherein R¹ is lower alkyl, aryl, ar(lower)alkoxy or a heterocyclic group, the above groups being optionally substituted by halogen, R² is hydrogen atom or lower alkyl, R³ is cyclo(lower)alkyl, aryl or ar(lower)alkyl, the above groups being optionally substituted by halogen, A is -CO-, -SO₂- or lower alkylene, and Y shows -CO-, -SO₂- or -CONH- (compound(I)), a salt thereof, a prodrug thereof or a solvate thereof; a method for the prophylaxis or treatment of brain disorders such as dementia and amnesia, which includes such administration; and a screening method particularly useful for screening a compound having a similar effect as compound (I).